Teaching Workshop

A Teaching Workshop was held at the Baha'i National Centre, Kathmandu, on September 30th and October 1st 2006 under the joint auspices of the International Teaching Centre and the National Spiritual Assembly from which the Secretary, Mr. Narendra Pande, made the welcome address. In her keynote address at the opening of the workshop, International Counsellor Dr. Penny Walker informed the participants about those sections of the 27 December 2005 letter which explain various aspects of the Five Year Plan and its significance. She emphasized the need to study this letter from time to time. Even though those living at the World Centre are deprived of the opportunity to teach, the progress made and victories gained in the area of teaching have made the House of Justice very happy. She said, "the road ahead is clear, but there could still be some things that are not so clear, which we will discuss and try to make them so clear that when the participants of this program return home they should have no doubts about what they should do and how they should do it for the success of God's plan." She stressed that we must work harder to achieve the goals of this plan than for the last plan.

During the plan which concluded last year, only 298 "A" Clusters were formed, but in the new plan there is the goal of establishing 1,500 "A" Clusters. Counsellor Walker said that in order to achieve this goal many "B" Clusters will have to be elevated to "A" Clusters and "C" Clusters to "B" Clusters and that in order to prepare for this, to happen "such institutional meetings are taking place all over the world". She said that in the last plan not enough attention could be given to the "C" Clusters, but in the current plan, giving due attention to the strong "C" Clusters falls within the Guidance and Strategy of the Universal House of Justice. "In the remaining four and

half years while working in Nepal we will be facing problems due to corruption, bad governance and other social problems but we should apply Baha'i principles more to show others that we can solve problems through consultations," the Counsellor advised.
Regarding the transformation of the community, the Universal House of Justice says that mere acceptance of the Baha'i Faith is not enough for transformation. Our participation in every activity designed to bring about a world-embracing culture not only plays an important role in advancement of community life and but also supports the development of human resources. Dr. Walker said that the purpose of organizing children's classes was not only to develop a community but to create a new civilization. If we are to bring about a new civilization we must all play an important role. In addition, the influences of the Prophets of God affect the world much longer than any of the great philosophers.

During the entire session the December 2005 letter was studied and through the
workshop each participant was able to identify and clarify his or her role in their clusters. Short cultural presentations were made during the workshop. It was a matter of satisfaction that every program started on time. Counsellor Walker mentioned that the new roadmap would apply for the next 15 years. She reminded the Nepalese Baha'is that if they were to build the new civilization they could do it through love and not through violence. The more than 100 participants in the program included the members from all Cluster Growth Committees, Coordinators of the Training Institute, Auxiliary Board Members, National Spiritual Assembly Members, Members of the National Coordination Committee and special guests and observers. Counsellor Dr. Penny Walker also met separately with the National Spiritual Assembly, the Training Institute Board, and other joint meetings and offered

valuable suggestions to these. Continental Counsellor Mr. N.C. Bhaskaran’s presentation on Cluster coordination was lively and he participated actively in the discussions. The meeting included group work to discuss and prepare strategies to advance the development for each cluster.